

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSHUA FORSTER,

Plaintiff,

v.

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 1:22-cv-01191 CDB (PC)

FIRST SCREENING ORDER

Plaintiff Joshua Forster is a civil detainee¹ proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

I. SCREENING REQUIREMENT

The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against a governmental entity or an officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the complaint is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b). The Court should dismiss a complaint if it lacks a cognizable legal theory or fails to allege sufficient facts to support a cognizable legal theory. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

¹ Individuals detained pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code § 6600 *et seq.* are civil detainees and are not prisoners within the meaning of the Prison Litigation Reform Act. *Page v. Torrey*, 201 F.3d 1136, 1140 (9th Cir. 2000).

II. PLEADING REQUIREMENTS

A. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)

“Rule 8(a)’s simplified pleading standard applies to all civil actions, with limited exceptions.” *Swierkiewicz v. Sorema N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506, 513 (2002). A complaint must contain “a short and plain statement of the claims showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). “Such a statement must simply give the defendant fair notice of what the plaintiff’s claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.” *Swierkiewicz*, 534 U.S. at 512 (internal quotation marks & citation omitted).

Detailed factual allegations are not required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). Plaintiff must set forth “sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). Factual allegations are accepted as true, but legal conclusions are not. *Id.* (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555).

The Court construes pleadings of *pro se* prisoners liberally and affords them the benefit of any doubt. *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010) (citation omitted). However, “the liberal pleading standard . . . applies only to a plaintiff’s factual allegations,” not his legal theories. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 330 n.9 (1989). Furthermore, “a liberal interpretation of a civil rights complaint may not supply essential elements of the claim that were not initially pled,” *Bruns v. Nat’l Credit Union Admin.*, 122 F.3d 1251, 1257 (9th Cir. 1997) (internal quotation marks & citation omitted), and courts “are not required to indulge unwarranted inferences.” *Doe I v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 572 F.3d 677, 681 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal quotation marks & citation omitted). The “sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully” is not sufficient to state a cognizable claim, and “facts that are merely consistent with a defendant’s liability” fall short. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (internal quotation marks & citation omitted).

B. Linkage and Causation

Section 1983 provides a cause of action for the violation of constitutional or other federal rights by persons acting under color of state law. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 1983. To state a claim under

section 1983, a plaintiff must show a causal connection or link between the actions of the defendants and the deprivation alleged to have been suffered by the plaintiff. *See Rizzo v. Goode*, 423 U.S. 362, 373-75 (1976). The Ninth Circuit has held that “[a] person ‘subjects’ another to the deprivation of a constitutional right, within the meaning of section 1983, if he does an affirmative act, participates in another’s affirmative acts, or omits to perform an act which he is legal required to do that causes the deprivation of which complaint is made.” *Johnson v. Duffy*, 588 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978) (citation omitted).

C. Supervisory Liability

Liability may not be imposed on supervisory personnel for the actions or omissions of their subordinates under the theory of respondeat superior. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 676-77; *see e.g.*, *Simmons v. Navajo Cty., Ariz.*, 609 F.3d 1011, 1020-21 (9th Cir. 2010) (plaintiff required to adduce evidence the named supervisory defendants “themselves acted or failed to act unconstitutionally, not merely that subordinate did”), *overruled on other grounds by Castro v. C’nty of Los Angeles*, 833 F.3d 1060, 1070 (9th Cir. 2016); *Jones v. Williams*, 297 F.3d 930, 934 (9th Cir. 2002) (“In order for a person acting under color of state law to be liable under section 1983 there must be a showing of personal participation in the alleged rights deprivation: there is no respondeat superior liability under section 1983”).

Supervisors may be held liable only if they “participated in or directed the violations, or knew of the violations and failed to act to prevent them.” *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). “The requisite causal connection may be established when an official sets in motion a ‘series of acts by others which the actor knows or reasonably should know would cause others to inflict’ constitutional harms.” *Corales v. Bennett*, 567 F.3d 554, 570 (9th Cir. 2009). Accord *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1205-06 (9th Cir. 2011) (supervisory liability may be based on inaction in the training and supervision of subordinates).

Supervisory liability may also exist without any personal participation if the official implemented “a policy so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation of the constitutional rights and is the moving force of the constitutional violation.” *Redman v. Cty. of San Diego*, 942 F.2d 1435, 1446 (9th Cir. 1991) (citations & quotations marks omitted), *abrogated on other*

1 *grounds by Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825 (1970).

2 To prove liability for an action or policy, the plaintiff “must ... demonstrate that his
3 deprivation resulted from an official policy or custom established by a ... policymaker possessed
4 with final authority to establish that policy.” *Waggy v. Spokane County Washington*, 594 F.3d
5 707, 713 (9th Cir.2010). When a defendant holds a supervisory position, the causal link between
6 such defendant and the claimed constitutional violation must be specifically alleged. *See Fayle v.*
7 *Stapley*, 607 F.2d 858, 862 (9th Cir. 1979). Vague and conclusory allegations concerning the
8 involvement of supervisory personnel in civil rights violations are not sufficient. *See Ivey v.*
9 *Board of Regents*, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982).

10 **III. DISCUSSION**

11 **A. Plaintiff’s Complaint**

12 Plaintiff is currently housed at Coalinga State Hospital (CSH) in Coalinga, California
13 where the events in the complaint are alleged to have occurred. Plaintiff names Stephanie
14 Clendenin, Director of Department of State Hospitals and Brandon Price, Executive Director at
15 CSH, as Defendants in this action. (Doc. 1 at 1, 3.) Both Defendants are sued in their individual
16 capacities. (*Id.* at 3.) Plaintiff seeks relief in the form of damages totaling \$1,000,000 and “any
17 other injunctions the court deems appropriate to protect both state and federal constitutional
18 rights.” (*Id.* at 9.)

19 **B. Plaintiff’s Factual Allegations**

20 Plaintiff contends prisoners housed by the California Department of Corrections and
21 Rehabilitation (CDCR) are given “internet capable devices and internet access,” allowing those
22 prisoners “a better quality of life, a greater chance to successfully reintegrate back into society
23 upon release, with a higher probability of rehabilitation.” (Doc. 1 at 4.) Plaintiff alleges
24 Defendants have not adopted “the above program or anything like it for the Plaintiff.” (*Id.*)
25 Plaintiff further asserts that “[p]atients under the same civil process as this Plaintiff (WIC) that
26 are out on conditional release (meaning still in custody and treatment) have individualized
27 conditions that allow” them to “have internet capable devices and internet access” but Defendants
28 have denied Plaintiff “the same individualized conditions.” (*Id.*) Next, Plaintiff contends CDCR

1 parolees “have individualized conditions of parole” that allow them access to electronic devices,
2 but Defendants have denied Plaintiff “the same individualized conditions.” (*Id.*) Further, Plaintiff
3 contends “CDCR prisoners are allowed to purchase and wear personal clothing,” but that
4 Defendants have denied Plaintiff the ability “to own and wear the same selective type of personal
5 clothing prisoners are allowed.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff asserts CDCR prisoners are offered educational and
6 vocational opportunities he is not offered by Defendants. (*Id.*) Plaintiff contends those few
7 programs that were offered at CSH have been cut. (*Id.*) Plaintiff asserts “Defendant further gives
8 far less money to a patient when they leave the hospital back into society than prisoners get.” (*Id.*)
9 Next, Plaintiff contends CSH “used to allow nutritional supplements for patients” where
10 individually approved by a treatment team, but now CSH “has disallowed all supplement and
11 made it a blanket denial.” (*Id.* at 4-5.)

12 Plaintiff contends that from October 2017 to present, he “has experienced a growing list of
13 disallowed property/items based on Defendants’ “speculative assertion of a need to deter acts that
14 are already criminal in nature and/or ‘safety and security’ issues.” (Doc. 1 at 5.) Plaintiff contends
15 the “causation for this redaction of allowable property/items has not been individualized” to him.
16 (*Id.*) Next, Plaintiff asserts the CSH “patient phone system” in his housing unit does not provide
17 “reasonable access to make or receive confidential phone calls when needed” and that the CSH
18 “package program over the last several years has become more restrictive and is now similar to
19 the package program implemented by CDCR for prisoners.” (*Id.*)

20 Plaintiff maintains that during his entire stay at CSH, Defendants have failed to provide
21 him with adequate mental health treatment, resulting in his not being provided “a reasonable
22 expectation to regain his freedom.” (Doc. 1 at 5.) He states his “confinement has gone [from] a
23 priority of forensic treatment, to a non-forensic facility of just confinement.” (*Id.*) Moreover,
24 Plaintiff contends Defendants “have closed ancillary groups,” rotating facilitators “from group to
25 group regularly causing disruption in treatment,” and allowing facilitators to “end group early or
26 close the group for the day,” making treatment “a non-priority.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff alleges the reality
27 of treatment offered is different than what Defendants state “on paper.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff contends
28 there “is a disconnect between what the Department of State Hospital evaluators think the

1 treatment is like” and what is “actually offered or continually changing.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff asserts
 2 that as a result he is not given “a fair evaluation when the evaluators come to CSH and update
 3 Plaintiff’s evaluations.” (*Id.*) He contends there is a “shortage of facilitators, groups and hours of
 4 treatment have diminished.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff argues the treatment program offered at CSH “is far
 5 below recommendations found in ‘Sex Offender Civil Commitment Program Network’
 6 (SOCCPN)” and that Defendants’ treatment program “fails as to the ratio of facilitators, hours of
 7 treatment per week and other categories.” (*Id.* at 5-6.)

8 Plaintiff asserts his personal liberty is restricted by the treatment groups, that the structure
 9 of the groups does not allow him to “present his assignments every week or every month” and
 10 that his treatment has been “stalled and not moving forward at a reasonable speed.” (Doc. 1 at 6.)
 11 Plaintiff contends the groups are “getting more restrictive,” start early or late, and the group
 12 sessions are consistently cancelled and involve “a ratio that is unreasonable.” (*Id.*)

13 **C. Plaintiff’s Claims**

14 **Claim One**

15 Plaintiff’s first cause of action is untitled; however, he cites to the California Code of
 16 Regulations and the Due Process clause. (Doc. 1 at 6-7.)

17 Plaintiff contends Defendant Clendenin is “tortuously liable” because she has “created and
 18 maintained Plaintiff’s conditions of confinement such that they are punitive in nature.” (Doc. 1 at
 19 6.) Plaintiff alleges Clendenin has “failed to adhere to the mandates of CCR Title 9, §§880-884 in
 20 that her actions reflect a blanket application to all patients without individualized consideration”
 21 to Plaintiff. (*Id.*) Further, Plaintiff contends Clendenin has “failed to follow state and federal
 22 statutory and decisional law” and “the punitive nature of her action where Clendenin’s objective
 23 was/is to deter conduct already addressed by Penal Code statutes or in retribution based on action
 24 of other patients.” (*Id.* at 6-7.) Plaintiff asserts the restrictions are “supported by a speculative
 25 need for ‘safety and security’ where this term is used loosely and not in accordance with CCR
 26 Title 9, §§880-884, but instead is used as CDCR does for its prisoners (prisoners can be subjected
 27 to conditions amounting to punishment).” (*Id.* at 7.) Plaintiff further contends Clendenin has
 28 failed to insure Plaintiff’s “conditions of confinement are less restrictive than prisoners and failed

1 to take less restrictive options.” (*Id.*) He asserts all “statutory and decisional laws cited herein are
 2 well established and it is reasonable to expect that Clendenin is/was aware that they exist and that
 3 she is/was not in compliance.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff contends Clendenin “is the moving force of
 4 violations” of his due process rights protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. (*Id.*)

5 ***Due Process: Conditions of Confinement***

6 To state a claim that the conditions of his confinement violate his due process rights under
 7 the Fourteenth Amendment, a plaintiff must allege facts showing the conditions amount to
 8 “punishment.” *Jones v. Blanas*, 393 F.3d 918, 932 (9th Cir. 2004). Punitive conditions of
 9 confinement are those that are either expressly intended to punish or those that are “excessive in
 10 relation to the alternative purpose [for confinement].” *Demery v. Arpaio*, 378 F.3d 1020, 1028
 11 (9th Cir. 2004) (quoting *Bell v. Wolfish*, 441 U.S. 520, 538 (1979)).

12 “Persons who have been involuntarily committed are entitled to more considerate
 13 treatment and conditions of confinement than criminals whose conditions of confinement are
 14 designed to punish.” *Youngberg v. Romeo*, 457 U.S. 307, 321-22 (1982). A civilly committed
 15 individual’s right to constitutionally adequate conditions is protected by the substantive
 16 component of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. *Id.* at 315. To determine
 17 whether these substantive due process rights have been violated, the Court must balance the
 18 individual’s “liberty interests against the relevant state interests.” *Id.* at 320-21. The proper
 19 standard in determining whether a condition or restriction is constitutional for a civilly committed
 20 individual is whether “professional judgment in fact was exercised,” rather than the “deliberate
 21 indifference” standard used for Eighth Amendment cruel and unusual punishment claims brought
 22 by prisoners. *Id.* at 312 n.11, 322. “[D]ecisions made by the appropriate professional are entitled
 23 to a presumption of correctness,” and “liability may be imposed only when the decision by the
 24 professional is such a substantial departure from accepted professional judgment, practice, or
 25 standards as to demonstrate that the person responsible actually did not base the decision on such
 26 a judgment.” *Id.* at 323-24. The Ninth Circuit has analyzed such conditions of confinement claims
 27 under an objective deliberate indifference standard. *See Castro v. Cnty. of L.A.*, 833 F.3d 1060,
 28 1071 (9th Cir. 2016) (en banc) (adopting objective deliberate indifference standard based on

1 *Kingsley v. Hendrickson*, 576 U.S. 389 (2015), to evaluate failure to protect claim brought by
 2 pretrial detainee). That standard demands that:

3 (1) The defendant made an intentional decision with respect to the
 4 conditions under which the plaintiff was confined; (2) Those
 5 conditions put the plaintiff at substantial risk of suffering serious
 6 harm; (3) The defendant did not take reasonable available measures
 7 to abate that risk, even though a reasonable officer in the
 circumstances would have appreciated the high degree of risk
 involved—making the consequences of the defendant's conduct
 obvious; and (4) By not taking such measures, the defendant caused
 the plaintiff's injuries.

8 *Castro*, 833 F.3d at 1071.

9 Liberally construing Plaintiff's complaint, Plaintiff plausibly alleges a conditions of
 10 confinement due process claim. He asserts that Defendant Clendenin's intentional decisions to
 11 limit or restrict access to resources typically afforded to prisoners (*e.g.*, internet access and
 12 devices, packages and nutritional supplements) have been denied to him as a civil detainee. He
 13 contends Clendenin's actions have caused him harm and that she ignored reasonable alternatives
 14 to abate the risk of harm, and that those actions are not supported by reasonable professional
 15 judgment nor are the actions relevant to state interests.

16 ***Due Process: Failure to Provide Mental Health Treatment***

17 “[T]he due process clause includes a substantive component which guards against
 18 arbitrary and capricious government action, even when the decision to take that action is made
 19 through procedures that are in themselves constitutionally adequate.” *Halverson v. Skagit Cty.*, 42
 20 F.3d 1257, 1261 (9th Cir. 1994), as amended on denial of reh’g (Feb. 9, 1995) (quoting *Sinaloa*
 21 *Lake Owners Ass’n v. City of Simi Valley*, 882 F.2d 1398, 1407 (9th Cir.1989)). States are
 22 required “to provide civilly-committed persons with access to mental health treatment that gives
 23 them a realistic opportunity to be cured and released,” and to provide “more considerate treatment
 24 and conditions of confinement than criminals whose conditions of confinement are designed to
 25 punish.” *Sharp v. Weston*, 233 F.3d 1166, 1172 (9th Cir. 2000) (citations omitted). Although the
 26 state enjoys wide latitude in developing treatment regimens, the courts may take action when
 27 there is a substantial departure from accepted professional judgment or when there has been no
 28 exercise of professional judgment at all. *Id.* A person committed based on mental incapacity has a

1 due process right to receive “such individual treatment as will give [him] a realistic opportunity to
 2 be cured or to improve his ... mental condition ... because, absent treatment, [he] could be held
 3 indefinitely as a result of [his] mental illness.” *Ohlinger v. Watson*, 652 F.2d 775, 778 (9th Cir.
 4 1980) (internal citations omitted). Thus, a person committed based on mental incapacity has a due
 5 process right to receive “such individual treatment as will give [him] a realistic opportunity to be
 6 cured or to improve his ... mental condition ... because, absent treatment, [he] could be held
 7 indefinitely as a result of [his] mental illness.” *Id.* (internal citations omitted).

8 Although civilly detained persons must be afforded more considerate treatment and
 9 conditions of confinement than convicted defendants, where specific standards are lacking, courts
 10 may look to decisions defining the constitutional rights of prisoners to establish a floor for the
 11 constitutional rights of persons detained under a civil commitment scheme. *Padilla v. Yoo*, 678
 12 F.3d 748, 759 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing *Hydrick v. Hunter*, 500 F.3d 978, 989 (9th Cir. 2007),
 13 vacated and remanded on other grounds by 556 U.S. 1256 (2009)). A court also may borrow
 14 Eighth Amendment standards to do so. *Frost v. Agnos*, 152 F.3d 1124, 1128 (9th Cir. 1998);
 15 *Redman v. County of San Diego*, 942 F.2d 1435, 1441 (9th Cir. 1991), abrogated on other
 16 grounds by 511 U.S. 825 (1994). But the conditions under which civil detainees are held cannot
 17 be harsher than those under which prisoners are detained except where the statute itself creates a
 18 relevant difference. *Hydrick*, 500 F.3d at 989 n.7.²

19 The Due Process Clause requires that the nature and duration of the civil commitment
 20 must bear some reasonable relation to the purpose for which the individual is committed. *Jones*,
 21 393 F.3d at 931. However, civilly detained individuals can be subject to restrictions that have a
 22 legitimate, non-punitive government purpose and that do not appear to be excessive in relation to
 23 that purpose. *Bell*, 441 U.S. at 535. “A reasonable relationship between the governmental interest
 24 and the challenged restriction does not require an exact fit, nor does it require showing a ‘least
 25 restrictive alternative.’” *Valdez v. Rosenbalm*, 302 F.3d 1039, 1046 (9th Cir. 2002) (citations

26
 27 ² The Ninth Circuit also noted that the general body of law for civilly committed individuals should apply
 28 to civilly committed sexually violent predators, but in some instances the circumstances of detention and
 safety considerations must be taken into account so that not all rights are necessarily coextensive with
 those of other civilly committed persons. *Hydrick*, 466 F.3d at 691.

omitted). The only question is whether the defendants might reasonably have thought that the policy would advance its interests. *Id.*; *Jones*, 393 F.3d at 933 (“due process requires that the conditions and duration of confinement ... bear some reasonable relation to the purposes for which persons are committed”).

Liberally construing the allegations, Plaintiff states a cognizable claim for failure to treat Plaintiff under the Fourteenth Amendment Due Process clause against Defendant Clendenin, which requires states to provide civilly committed persons with access to mental health treatment that gives them a realistic opportunity to be cured and released. Taking Plaintiff's factual allegations as true, Plaintiff has already remained civilly committed since 2017 and has had minimal to no treatment due to Clendenin's policy. Absent a treatment plan and treatment, Plaintiff is left without an opportunity to cure or improve his mental illness and no prospect of ever being released. These facts constitute injury stemming from Clendenin's alleged policy of failure to treat Plaintiff.

Claim Two

Plaintiff's second cause of action similarly asserts a conditions of confinement due process violation against Defendant Price.³

Plaintiff contends Defendant Price is “tortuously liable” because he has “created and maintained Plaintiff's conditions of confinement such that they are punitive in nature.” (Doc. 1 at 7.) Plaintiff alleges Price has “failed to adhere to the mandates of CCR Title 9, §§880-884 in that her actions reflect a blanket application to all patients without individualized consideration” to Plaintiff. (*Id.*) Further, Plaintiff contends Price has “failed to follow state and federal statutory and decisional law” and “the punitive nature of his actions where Price's objective was/is to deter conduct already addressed by Penal Code statutes or in retribution based on action of other patients.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff asserts the restrictions are “supported by a speculative need for ‘safety and security’ where this term is used loosely and not in accordance with CCR Title 9, §§880-884, but instead is used as CDCR does for its prisoners (prisoners can be subjected to conditions

³ Legal standards applicable to a claim will not be repeated where previously provided.

amounting to punishment).” (*Id.*) Plaintiff further contends Price has failed to insure Plaintiff’s “conditions of confinement are less restrictive than prisoners and failed to take less restrictive options.” (*Id.*) He asserts all “statutory and decisional laws cited herein are well established and it is reasonable to expect that Price is/was aware that they exist and that [h]e is/was not in compliance.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff contends Price “is the moving force of violations” of his due process rights protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. (*Id.*)

Due Process: Conditions of Confinement

Liberally construing Plaintiff’s complaint, Plaintiff plausibly alleges a conditions of confinement due process claim. He asserts that Defendant Price’s intentional decisions to limit or restrict access to resources typically afforded to prisoners (*e.g.*, internet access and devices, packages and nutritional supplements) have been denied to him as a civil detainee. He contends Price’s actions have caused him harm, that Price ignored reasonable alternatives to abate the risk of harm, and that those actions are not supported by reasonable professional judgment nor are the actions relevant to state interests.

Due Process: Failure to Provide Mental Health Treatment

Liberally construing the allegations, Plaintiff states a cognizable claim for failure to treat Plaintiff under the Fourteenth Amendment Due Process clause against Defendant Price, which requires states to provide civilly committed persons with access to mental health treatment that gives them a realistic opportunity to be cured and released. Taking Plaintiff’s factual allegations as true, Plaintiff has already remained civilly committed since 2017 and has had minimal to no treatment due to the policy of Defendant Price. Absent a treatment plan and treatment, Plaintiff is left without an opportunity to cure or improve his mental illness and no prospect of ever being released. These facts constitute injury stemming from Price’s alleged policy of failure to treat Plaintiff.

Claim Three

Next, in his third cause of action, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Clendenin “is tortuously liable” for creating “a treatment program that is inadequate, and that does not give this Plaintiff a reasonable expectation to obtain his liberty,” citing to California Welfare and Institution Code §§

1 5325.1(a) and 7503. (Doc. 1 at 8.)

2 California Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5325 and 5325.1 list certain rights
3 available to persons with mental illnesses who are involuntarily detained for evaluation or
4 treatment. *See* Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 5325, 5325.1 (listing rights; *see also* Cal. Penal Code §
5 1610 (providing that persons confined under this section, which includes SVPs, may be housed in
6 accordance with California Penal Code § 4002 and have a right to “an explanation of rights in the
7 manner prescribed in Section 5325 of the Welfare and Institutions Code”).

8 Liberally construed, Plaintiff’s state law claim against Defendant Clendenin plausibly
9 alleges a violation of state law based upon a deprivation of a right provided by the Constitution.
10 *See Lovell v. Poway Unified Sch. Dist.*, 90 F.3d 367, 370 (9th Cir. 1996) (“a violation of state law
11 may not form the basis for a section 1983 action unless it causes a deprivation of a right provided
12 by the Constitution”).⁴

13 **Claim Four**

14 Lastly, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Price “is tortuously liable” for creating “a
15 treatment program that is inadequate, and that does not give this Plaintiff a reasonable expectation
16 to obtain his liberty,” citing to California Welfare and Institution Code §§ 5325.1(a) and 7503.
17 (Doc. 1 at 8.)

18 Liberally construed, Plaintiff’s state law claim against Defendant Price plausibly alleges a
19 violation of state law based upon a deprivation of a right provided by the Constitution. *See Lovell*,
20 90 F.3d at 370.

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27 ⁴ “[T]he Constitution does not compel states to follow their own laws,” *Allison v. Snyder*, 332 F.3d 1076,
28 1078 (7th Cir. 2003) (citing, inter alia, *DeShaney v. Winnebago County Dep’t of Soc. Servs.*, 489 U.S. 189,
202 (1989)), “[n]or does it permit a federal court to enforce state laws directly.” *Id.* at 1079 (citing
Pennhurst State Sch. & Hosp. v. Halderman, 465 U.S. 89, 106 (1984)).

1 **IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

2 For the reasons set forth above, the Court finds that Plaintiff's complaint states cognizable
3 claims for relief against Defendants Clendenin and Price. The Court will issue a separate order
4 directing service of the complaint.

5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6 Dated: April 28, 2023

7 
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE